



# NonPoint Source Times

Volume 15 , Issue 4 Fall 2006

## New Freeport Community Center Parking Lot Leaks

Freeport, Maine, a town known for innovation in “Bean” boots and a McDonald’s with traditional Maine coast architecture, has taken another novel approach to the ordinary. The new Freeport Community Center just installed a parking lot and pedestrian walkway that, literally, leak. These “porous pavement” technologies are specially designed to allow rainwater to infiltrate the ground rather than running off the pavement to nearby coastal waters, carrying pollutants with them.

Porous pavements are not necessarily new in the U.S. but their applications in Maine are. Porous pavements are a modification of traditional hard pavements such as concrete and asphalt that allow water to drain through them into a special medium or “base course”. Under the pavement, the “base course” slows down the flow of water and allows time for it to infiltrate into the ground where pollutants can be naturally treated.



*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside This Issue

Stormwater Compensation Fund RFP	2
2007 NPS Grant Awards	3
Green Roof	4
PEARL Gets Update	5
Erosion Control Suppliers/Erosion Control Mix Suppliers	7/8
Georgia to Require Erosion Control Certification	8
Key Note Address to COLA by Commissioner David Littell	9
Up Coming Events	13

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Freeport Community Center project includes a small porous parking lot and pervious pedestrian walkway that will serve to demonstrate how these technologies work. Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP), which provided a \$28,725 grant to fund the Freeport Community Center project, has been working to promote low impact development demonstration projects like these porous pavements, the green roof on the new East End school in Portland, and other technologies in order to reduce pollution to Casco Bay. "It is our hope that demonstration projects like the Freeport Community Center will show that these systems are not only better for the environment but are also attractive and easier to maintain than conventional systems. In the future, we hope that other community and commercial sites will follow suit and install these low impact development technologies." said Karen Young, Director of CBEP.

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, part of the USM Muskie School, works to protect and restore the Casco Bay ecosystem while sustaining compatible human uses. For more information, visit [www.cascobayestuary.org](http://www.cascobayestuary.org)

For more information: Karen Young, Director, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, (207) 780-4820, [kyoung@usm.maine.edu](mailto:kyoung@usm.maine.edu) or Zach Henderson, Project Manager, Hillier and Associates (207) 626-0613, [zhenderson@hillierinc.com](mailto:zhenderson@hillierinc.com) or Jim Cassida, Freeport Community Center Building Committee at [jamescassida@suscom-maine.net](mailto:jamescassida@suscom-maine.net)

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## New RFP for Stormwater Compensation Grant Projects

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For 2006 the Maine DEP Division of Watershed Management is pleased to announce the release of a new Request For Proposals for Stormwater Compensation Fund Grants, available on the DEP "RFP" web page <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/rfp.htm> beginning September 5, 2006.

Maine's Stormwater Management Law (38 M.R.S.A. §420-D.11) authorizes the DEP to accept a compensation fee in lieu of some of the phosphorus reduction necessary for a project to meet its phosphorus allocation requirement for development in lake watersheds. The law authorizes the DEP to establish a non-lapsing Compensation Fund to receive these fees, dedicated to funding compensation projects located within the same watersheds where the fees were collected. The DEP is seeking project proposals to achieve long-term elimination or reduction of chronic phosphorus sources in these watersheds. There are 25 lake watersheds where compensation funds are available.

The deadline for submitting questions regarding the RFP is **October 18, 2006** and for submitting a proposal is **November 1, 2006**. The RFP contains information necessary for applying. Instructions for downloading and asking questions about the RFP are on the DEP website. A hard copy of the RFP is available upon request.

The agency contact person for this RFP is Tony St. Peter, DEP Division of Watershed Management E-mail: [tony.stpeter@maine.gov](mailto:tony.stpeter@maine.gov) or Phone: 207-287-2116.

## FFY 2007 Grants for NPS Pollution Control Projects Awarded

In a press release July 28, DEP announced \$560,000 will fund 11 projects designed to reduce pollution in Maine's lakes and streams. NPS grants will be funded with anticipated federal fiscal year 2007 monies provided to Maine by the EPA under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

DEP Commissioner David Littell said, "Not all pollution comes from industrial facilities. In fact, every time it rains or the snow melts, pollutants such as dirt, sediment, nutrients, bacteria and oils can be carried by water runoff to our brooks, lakes or coastal waters. Over time, if unchecked, clean waters can gradually become polluted. These NPS watershed projects recognize water pollution sources in watersheds and give communities the necessary funding to take action to protect or restore clean lakes, streams, brooks and coastal waters. "

DEP issued the RFP in April and received 27 proposals requesting at total of 1.2 million dollars. This response demonstrates that local community-based partnerships value clean water and are recognizing and finding solutions to NPS problems. A review committee evaluated and scored all proposals. DEP will be working with grantees to adjust work plans as needed to secure final approval. Grant awards are subject to receipt of federal FFY 2007 319 funds. Grants are tentatively planned to enable start-up of projects in about April 2007.

FMI: Contact Norm Marcotte, DEP 207-287-7727 or norm.g.marcotte@maine.gov

### Proposal Summary

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Funds Requested</i>	<i>Funds to be Awarded</i>
Watershed Projects	\$1,064,132	\$517,173
Watershed Surveys	\$135,186 9 proposals	\$42,716 proposals

### Projects to Be Awarded NPS Grants in 2007

<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>Match</i>
<b>NPS Watershed Projects</b>			
Annabessacook Lake Rehabilitation Project	Cobboossee Watershed District	46,400	44,800
Branch Lake Watershed Improvement – Phase I	Hancock County SWCD	73,165	51,941
Cobboossee Lake Water Quality Protection	Kennebec County SWCD	72,640	68,760
East Pond Watershed Restoration - Phase III	Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance	50,545	35,200
Forest Lake Conservation Project - Phase II	Cumberland County SWCD	75,000	58,228
Hancock & Sand Ponds Conservation - Phase I	Cumberland County SWCD	75,000	53,761
Raymond Pond Conservation	Raymond, Town of	54,238	41,363
Tacoma Lakes NPS Abatement	Kennebec County SWCD	70,185	50,580
<b>NPS Watershed Surveys</b>			
Goodall Brook Watershed Source Assessment	York County SWCD	14,635	11,300
Lincoln Lakes NPS Watershed Survey	Penobscot County SWCD	16,567	11,500
Pleasant Lake / Parker Watershed Survey	Pleasant Lake / Parker Pond Association	11,514	9,406

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## East End School Grows a Green Roof

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The new East End School in Portland is now “green” from top to bottom. The energy-efficient school building just received a literally, green, vegetated roof. The roof, designed and installed by Elevated Landscape Technologies, is composed of a special growing medium and drainage system with a top layer of specially grown plants tolerant of cold climates.



Green roofs have been used for centuries in Europe but are more recently becoming popular in the United States for their environmental benefits. Green roofs absorb rainfall and process it as a natural ecosystem instead of allowing the water to run off the roof and into nearby waterbodies, carrying pollutants with it. In addition, green roofs can significantly reduce energy and maintenance costs since they act as an excellent insulator and extend the lifespan of a conventional rooftop. Joe Hemes, architect with Stephen Blatt architects, included the green roof in the school's design for environmental reasons, educational opportunities, and for the beauty of it.

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, which provided a \$25,000 grant to fund the East End green roof project, has been working to promote low impact development demonstration projects like this green roof and other technologies in order to reduce pollution to Casco Bay. “It is our hope that demonstration projects like the East End School green roof will show that these systems are not only better for the environment but are also attractive and cost-effective. In the future, we hope that other community and commercial sites will follow suit and install these low impact development technologies.” said Karen Young, Director of CBEP.

On Wednesday, September 6 from 7:30 – 9:00 am at the Abromson Center (room 109/110) on USM's Portland campus, the U.S. Green Building Council's Maine Chapter is hosting a special forum, “Green Roofs – Growing in Maine” that will focus on the new East End school green roof. To learn more, please visit [www.usgbc.org/chapters/maine/](http://www.usgbc.org/chapters/maine/).

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For more information: Karen Young, Director, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, (207) 780-4820, [kyoung@usm.maine.edu](mailto:kyoung@usm.maine.edu) or Danuta Drozdowicz, Project Manager, Fore Solutions at (207)347-5066, [danuta@fore-solutions.com](mailto:danuta@fore-solutions.com), or Joe Hemes, Architect, Stephen Blatt Architects, at (207) 761-5911, [joe@sbarchitects.com](mailto:joe@sbarchitects.com).

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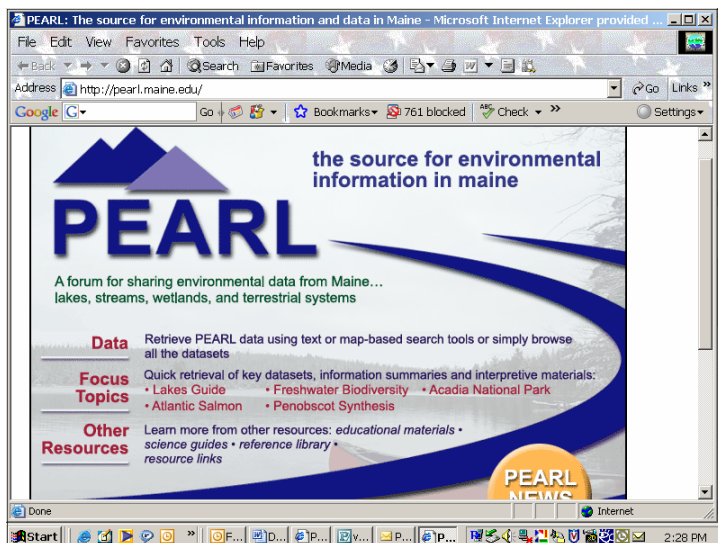
## Enhanced Access to Lake Information

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PEARL recently launched a series of new, easy-to-use, options for viewing water quality, biological and other information about Maine lakes. A series of buttons on the Lake Overview pages allows users to produce data summaries and graphics for any selected lake. Since these data displays are created “on-the-fly”, they always reflect the most up-to-date information in the PEARL Data Bank.

Follow along with this article on PEARL (<http://pearl.maine.edu>), or read the article with the appropriate screen shots displayed at <http://pearl.maine.edu/about/news.htm>.

To access lake information displays, first select a lake (PEARL > Data > Data Search: Lake/Stream Name). We used Sebago Lake, Maine’s deepest lake, as an example.



The blue box in the Lake Overview provides morphometric and geographic information about the selected lake. Below the blue box is a series of buttons. When clicked, each of these buttons dynamically generates an extract of data from one or more of the tables in PEARL’s Data Bank. For example, the “Fish Species” button displays the list of Sebago Lake fish species as documented by the ME Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. To learn more about these fisheries data, you can click on the metadata link above the table.

Other buttons on the Lake Overview page provide direct access to addi-

tional lake information, including water quality summaries, invasive plants, fish stocking and some invertebrate species lists.

From the Lake Overview page, the PEARL user can also view dynamically generated graphs of water transparency (Secchi disk depth) and temperature/dissolved oxygen profiles (source data are provided by ME Dept. of Environmental Protection and the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program). For example, clicking the Secchi Depth Plot button produces a graph of annual mean transparency data. To “drill down” into the transparency data for any year, simply click on the Secchi disk symbol; the within-year data are then displayed.

The Lake Overview pages also provide access to DEP’s Lake Narratives – short documents that provide a concise summaries of water quality for the selected lake. For lakes with more than one distinct basin, these narratives are basin-specific (Station 1, 2, etc.) because different basins may exhibit different characteristics.

### Frequently-Asked Questions

Why are PEARL data divided into two broad groupings: “Lakes and Streams” and “Wetlands, Estuaries, Coastal and Terrestrial”?

*(Continued on page 6)*



(Continued from page 5)

The reason for this system of grouping data tables relates to the way in which PEARL data are spatially referenced. Lakes and streams data are referenced to individual waterbodies. All lakes data are identified by the MIDAS lake code (Moosehead Lake, for example, is 0390) – a system that was established by DEP and IF&W many years ago. Streams data are geo-referenced to individual stream segments using codes derived from the National Hydrographic Dataset (<http://nhd.usgs.gov/>). Internal lookup tables in the PEARL system link each MIDAS lake code or NHD stream segment to their landscape context: watershed (the series of nested hydrologic units developed by USGS: HUC-8, HUC-10 and HUC-12), town and county. These linkages allow PEARL users to search for data by watershed or by town/county, in addition to waterbody name or code.

In contrast to lakes and streams data, all other data types in PEARL are spatially referenced only by unique combinations of town and watershed (HUC-12). This spatial referencing system also allows the user to search for, and extract, data using either watershed or political boundaries.

Why are there more lakes and streams data in PEARL than wetlands, estuarine, coastal and terrestrial data?

This is simply a time issue. PEARL started about 8 years ago as an on-line forum for serving lakes data. Modifications to PEARL's internal architecture that now enable other data types to be served on PEARL have been made only in the past 1-2 years. Now that these capabilities are in place, PEARL users will see an increasing number of both lake and non-lake data displayed on the site.

From the Senator George J. Mitchell Center newsletter.

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## NEAEB 2006 Presentations available on Web

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PowerPoint Presentations from the 2006 New England Association of Environmental Biologists (NEAEB) meeting are now available on the web. They are linked to the agenda, which can be found here: <http://www.epa.gov/ne/neaeb2006/index.html>.

Not all speakers wanted their presentations released. If you are interested in something, but don't find it here, please contact the presenter directly. All files are in PowerPoint format, so **please** be patience while the files are opening.



### **Save the Date**

Thursday November 15, 2006

MDEP's Annual Watershed Round Table

Location yet to be determined.

FMI contact Wendy Garland, MDEP at [wendy.garland@maine.gov](mailto:wendy.garland@maine.gov) or 822-6320

## Maine Erosion Control Material Suppliers

Vendor Name & Address & Telephone #	Materials
<b>Hydro Grass Corp.</b> P.O. Box 1, 58 Hartland Ave., Pittsfield, ME 04967. tel. 800-451-8838 or 207-775-5764; 5388; 6943	Erosion Control Blankets, Fertilizer, Hydroseeding, Silt Fence
<b>A. H. Harris *</b> - 255 West Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801; tel. 800-225-3580 - 22 Leighton Road, Augusta, ME 04330; tel. 800-872-0821 - 659 Warren Ave., Portland, ME 04101; tel. (207) 781-5764 - 55 Perry Road, Bangor, ME 04401	Erosion Control Blankets, Geotextile, Silt Fence
<b>W. H. Shurtleff Co. *</b> 5 Industry Road, PO Box 2800, So. Portland, ME 04116-2800 tel. 800-663-6149	Erosion Control Blankets, Geotextile, Silt Fence
<b>New England Organics*</b> 5 Fundy Road, Falmouth, ME 04105 (materials available at Jay, Scarborough and Unity) tel. 800-933-6474 or (207) 781-5011	Erosion Control Mulches, Loam Extenders, Soil Conditioners, Wood Waste Compost
<b>E. J. Prescott *</b> PO Box 600, Griffin St., Gardiner, ME 04345. tel. 800-873-3292 (207) 582-2006	N. American Green Products- Biodegradable mat, etc., Geotextiles, Silt Fence
<b>Jay-Kay Sales</b> PO Box 336 293 Lewiston Road, Topsham, ME 04086 tel. 800-227-5776 or (207) 725-4394	Erosion Control Blankets, Geotextile, Silt Fence
<b>Laws, Inc.</b> 412 Ridge Road, Lisbon Falls, ME 04252. tel. 888-453-5503 or (207) 353-5503	Erosion Control Blankets, Fertilizer, Hydroseeding, Silt Fence
<b>MPG Crop Service</b> PO Drawer 271, Presque Isle, ME 04769. tel. (207) 764-6465	Erosion Control Blankets, Fertilizer, Lime, Silt Fence
<b>Cavendish</b> 36 North Road, Detroit, ME 04929. tel. 800-427-4512 or (207) 487-6273	Fertilizer, Lime, Sell mulch for hydroseeding, Seed
<b>Paris Farmer's Union</b> Box D, Skillings Ave., So. Paris ME 04281. tel. 800-639-3603 or (207) 743-8976	Fertilizer, Lime, Seed, Silt Fence, Geotextiles
<b>Spraques Nursey</b> 1664 Union St., Bangor, ME 04401. tel. 800-336-2507 or (207) 942-1394	Erosion Control Blankets, Fertilizers, Hydroseeding
<b>Peter A. Lyford Inc.</b> 53 Dave's Way, Hermon, ME 04401. tel. (207) 848-3335	Erosion Control materials, Fertilizer, Silt Fence, Hydroseeding
<b>Erosion Control Supply</b> 240 Marquis Road, Van Buren, Maine 04785. Tel. 868-5839	Erosion Control materials
<b>K-Lane Erosion Control Services</b> 199 Neck Road, W. Gardiner, Maine 04345. Tel. 724-7369	Flitrex Soxx, Terra Seeding, Compost Blankets, Bark Mulch

There are absolutely no endorsements or approvals to these vendors by the Maine DEP. This list is for information purposes only and all benefits/risk are the responsibility of the buyers. There may be other suppliers the Center is not aware of. If there are other suppliers, the Center would be happy to add them to the list. \* Discounts provided to DEP certified Contractors.

Note: Please send any additions to list to: Bill LaFlamme ([William.N.LaFlamme@maine.gov](mailto:William.N.LaFlamme@maine.gov)).

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## Suppliers of Erosion Control Mix

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### **New England Organics**

5 Fundy Road, Falmouth, ME 04105  
(materials available at Jay, Scarborough and Unity)  
Tel. 800-933-6474 or (207) 781-5011

### Local Maine Distributors:

**Blue Hill**, M.E. Astbury- Tel. 374-5049

**Costigan**, KB Corporation- Tel. 862-6000

**Freeport**, D.C. Stilkey- Tel. 837-2126

**Jonesboro**, Mark Wright Construction- Tel. 483-4444

**Kingfield**, Norpine Landscape Inc.- Tel. 265-2430

**Kingfield**, Jordan Lumber Company- Tel. 778-1334

**Livermore**, C.H. Stevenson- Tel. 685-3600

**Manchester**, Sylvester Excavating- Tel. 622-7800

**Rockland**, George Hall- Tel. 594-4630

**Sanford**, Springvale Nursery- Tel. 636-1516

**Topsham**, Webber and Sons- Tel. 725-7727

**Topsham**, Harry Crooker & Sons- Tel. 729-3331

**Unity**, Hawk Ridge- Tel. 1-800-491-3071

### **Shaw Bros. Construction**

511 Main Street, P.O. Box 69, Gorham, Maine 04038. Tel. 839-2552

### **R.J. Grondin Construction—R.J. Grondin & Sons**

11 Bartlett Road, Gorham, Maine 04038. Tel. 854-1147

### **K-Lane Erosion Control Services**

199 Neck Road, W. Gardiner, Maine 04345. Tel. 724-7369

### **Aggregate Recycling Corporation**

P.O. Box 363, Eliot, Maine 03903. Tel. 800-639-7303 439-5584

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To add providers to the list contact: Bill LaFlamme at [William.N.LaFlamme@maine.gov](mailto:William.N.LaFlamme@maine.gov)

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## Georgia to Require Erosion Control Certification

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In 2003, HB285 amended the Georgia Erosion and Sediment Control Act of 1975. These amendments included a groundbreaking mandatory certification program for all individuals involved in land disturbing activities in Georgia. The Conservation Commission in consultation with EPD and the Governor appointed Stakeholder Advisory Board was charged with developing and implementing this program.

This program, which is specific to the needs of Georgia, includes various levels of certification as well as a Trainer program to certify third parties to offer certification courses throughout the state.

The passage of House Bill 285 brings with it a new Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program and charges the Commission with managing and administering the new education and certification process. Other State agencies and private organizations will be consulted ensure that the program remains up to date and is responsive to State needs by establishing a Stakeholder Advisory Board. Other public and private entities will be authorized to deliver educational, testing, or certification components of the program only upon written approval and agreement by the Commission. Anyone involved in land development, design, review, permitting, construction, monitoring, inspection, or any land-disturbing activity in Georgia must meet these new education requirements and be certified by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. It is estimated that 26,000 people will have to be certified by December 31, 2006.

FMI [http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/00/article/0.2086.28110777\\_28115483\\_39457911.00.html](http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/00/article/0.2086.28110777_28115483_39457911.00.html)



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## The Health of Maine Lakes - Achievements & Challenges

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*Editors Note: The following is an edited version of Maine DEP Commissioner David P. Littell's address to the 2006 New England Lakes Conference on June 3, 2006.*

### **Enforcement of Existing Environmental Laws**

First, I address our constant challenge of enforcing the laws under DEP jurisdiction. During 2005, our Site Law and Natural Resources Protection Act enforcement unit received 1,354 complaints. Of these, 355 involved great ponds and 271 involved wetlands, some adjacent to great ponds – taken together almost half (46%) of the land division's enforcement caseload. We resolved 70 enforcement cases by consent agreements that year, of which 13 (or 18%) involved great ponds resulting in \$21,585 of civil penalties and 15 (20%) involved impacts to freshwater wetlands resulting in \$38,795 in civil penalties. These numbers do not include shoreland zoning enforcement by municipal officials.

### **The Lake Essential Habitat Research Challenge**

As research on glaciers is providing important science on the effects of global warming, new scientific methods and ways of analyzing data allow us to measure and evaluate environmental impacts on our lakes and other water bodies. Collecting, compiling and analyzing this data gives us indicators that our lakes may be losing essential habitat value. Because it takes a wealth of data and personnel to measure the impacts we bring to our lakes, the DEP absolutely relies on key non-profit lake groups (COLA, CWD, LEA, VLMP) and our universities to consistently bulwark Maine's success in obtaining, compiling and studying critical environmental indicators.

### **Maine's Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program**

The Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program ([www.mainevlmp.org](http://www.mainevlmp.org)), the oldest such program in the U.S., remains one of Maine's great public/non-profit environmental partnerships. Maintaining the success of this accomplishment is among the DEP's highest priorities. The DEP could not effectively use its limited resources without the VLMP data. The dedication of the citizen volunteers who provide this significant service to their communities and the State was recognized in 2005 when Governor Baldacci awarded the VLMP with a Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The volunteers' high standards and dedication to quality assurance gives us excellent data that allows us to monitor statewide lake health, supports research and enables management decisions that go well beyond individual lakes.

With VLMP monitoring in place, historically the DEP staff have continued to visit volunteer-monitored lakes on a rotating basis to complement and confirm the data obtained by volunteers. Increasingly, we have found it difficult for DEP staff to return to each lake every five years. DEP confronted this challenge by initiating a mail-in sample project for selected lakes four years ago. If a lake is due for a visit, but is shallow enough to be adequately monitored through surface sampling, the Department will offer that option to volunteers. This assures that we will get the data needed at a fraction of the cost of state staff doing the job – last year DEP got 95% of the lakes we targeted for data.

By allowing us to do environmental protection better and smarter, this initiative allows DEP to get more lakes assessed and stretch our resources farther.

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

### **Collaborative Water Quality Research and Dissemination with the Maine's Universities**

In a very much related effort, the Department continues to support the University of Maine as it improves the PEARL information access web site (Public Educational Access to Environmental Information in Maine at [www.pearl.maine.edu](http://www.pearl.maine.edu)). While lake associations are instrumental in keeping local members informed, additional compilation and distribution of information to the environmental and conservation scientific community is essential. PEARL's emphasis on expanding the types of data available, educational resources, and data presentation tools will improve the public's access to this information.

This type of information is not just for agency types and scientists. PEARL makes this data available via the internet to anyone interested in closely examining lake water quality data. For example, DIFW's posting of fish species and stocking data, and other data such as loon counts, mussel survey information and other biodiversity data, are available through PEARL.

Though staff time and state dollars are perennially limited, DEP's Lake Assessment Program (Roy Bouchard, Linda Bacon and David Halliwell) are working in conjunction with the University of Maine at Orono on lake monitoring and management – again leveraging our limited resources.

We are working with Dr. Katherine Webster and researcher Kirsten Ness on the first ever research project in Maine to assess the relationship between shoreline development and near-shore lake habitats. This project will help us evaluate how well shoreland management is achieving its goals. All indicators to date arrive at the same conclusion, that shoreland zoning is absolutely essential if we are to prevent the erosion of lake water quality and habitat value for the shallow water near shore and shoreline vegetation.

In a second research collaboration with the University, the DEP is involved in novel work at East Pond in Smithfield designed to evaluate the potential for fishery manipulation to provide relief from the persistent algae blooms there. Research in Europe suggests that fish population manipulation could be a viable tool for lakes restoration. Dr. Katherine Webster has a graduate student, Tara Trinko, studying fish-plankton/water quality relationships; we are now working with UMO, the East Pond Association and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to proceed with project implementation involving fish removal and proper disposal planning efforts.

### **Water Withdrawal Rules**

On the immediate horizon DEP has spent over four years in developing proposed rules governing water withdrawals from streams and lakes. Limits on lake drawdowns and provisions to protect downstream flows to provide adequate aquatic habitat are addressed in the proposed rule through a sophisticated "Aquatic Base Flow" model developed by DEP based on significant collaborative work with Maine Geological Survey and the U.S.G.S. Given the four years of work of the DEP with M.G.S. and U.S.G.S. we have developed the most sophisticated water withdrawal rule in the country based on developed water quality science, and we are hopeful it is adopted.

That said, we have also been working with stakeholders who have expressed considerable anxiety with water withdrawal being regulated by DEP. We are under no illusions that the rulemaking and legislative process will be uneventful. The proposed rule is scheduled to

*(Continued on page 11)*

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be considered by the Board of Environmental Protection for posting at their June 15 meeting with a public hearing possible for August 3<sup>rd</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> ([www.state.me.us/dep/bep/](http://www.state.me.us/dep/bep/)). If adopted by the BEP the rule will go to the Legislature for approval as a “major substantive rule.” We encourage you to follow and participate in the public process at the BEP and the Legislature.

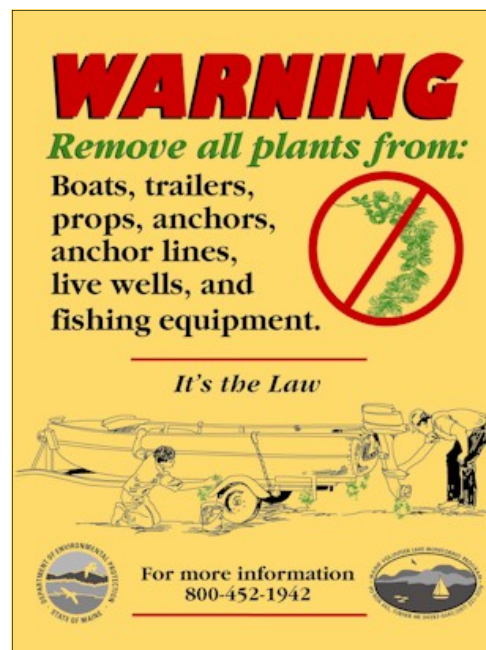
### Maine’s Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Invasive plant infestations have and continue to present a challenge – and are also one of the Department’s significant recent success stories. DEP’s Invasive Species Program starts its 2006 efforts with a tough record to beat: Maine encountered no new infestations in 2005. With only 26 infested out of 6,000 ponds and lakes, it shows that prevention is the best, most cost and environmentally effective option for dealing with invasive aquatic plant pests. Few states, especially where invasive aquatic plants are well established, have the ability to even consider prevention as a primary measure for invasive species program success. They are too busy spending large sums managing widespread infestations rather than being able to focus on prevention of infestations in the first place.

Another record breaker in 2005 for invasives prevention is the more than 40,000 Courtesy Boat Inspections conducted statewide through volunteers and others to protect Maine lakes and lakeside municipalities from infestation one boat at a time. That combined with a total of 1,500 Invasive Plant Patrollers trained by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program to monitor lakes for new outbreaks of invasive plants means Maine is one of the most proactive in preventing new invasive plant infestations.

While holding the line on new infestations, Maine DEP recognizes that lake communities and associations with already established infestations, mostly of variable milfoil, are hardly celebrating 2005’s accomplishments: and in fact some are calling for extraordinary measures including the relaxation of DEP’s environmental standards for permitting use of herbicides. DEP’s decisions on herbicide use remains on a case-by-case basis, weighing pesticide benefit against pesticide risk when tackling a species not likely to be eradicated – but rather controlled. Our historical experience suggests caution in the use of chemicals to control environmental and recreational problems.

The needs demonstrated by communities with unfortunate but established infestations informs us that new applied technologies for plant control and new sources of vegetation control funding must be found. Continued state efforts to promote use of suction dredging and to seek out alternative funding are underway, such as that now being explored with the USDA for Hydrilla control. Every new control option or new funding dollar enables DEP’s Invasives Control program (Roy Bouchard, John McPhedran, Karen Hahnel and Paul Gregory) and our staff to address existing infestations more resourcefully and effectively. It is important to recognize that Maine DEP provides only 3.5 full time professionals to implement the State’s invasive plant programs – the bare minimum to be effective.



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Finding new funding sources is especially important as dedicated funding for statewide invasive species programming, derived from the state's boat sticker program, appears to be leveling off. Indeed, as implementation inexorably demands more resources and public demands for control (and eradication grow), the dollars are falling short of the need.

Thus, DEP seeks to continue our successful partnership to bring more resources to the Invasives Program and your local organization for control and prevention. DEP is not interested in more staff – but rather more dollars for lake protection. Many of you have done a fantastic job of bringing local money to the table, as well as convincing foundations such as Libra and businesses such as L.L. Bean to contribute to good projects. We will continue talking with you about alternative ideas to grow the resources and effort.

As we continue to develop more sophisticated control programs, we will always need a local cost share for our projects. I want this to be crystal clear: for any significant local control or eradication effort to succeed there has to be a strong local commitment in dollars, people, and time.

The success of this program to date lies largely in the amazing effort demonstrated by our citizen-volunteers and contractors statewide who have leveraged limited funds with Mainer's significant amounts of energy and conviction to protect Maine's environment. That said, we understand that volunteerism is not unlimited.

Your State government is supporting and enhancing community efforts to help you continue to enhance our protection of all 6000 Maine lakes and ponds.

### **Protecting the “Last True Stronghold” of Brook Trout**

Before I close, I want to touch on one last emerging issue: the health of coldwater aquatic life-fisheries in Maine and how DEP's mission to protect water quality and shoreline/littoral zone habitat is related to introduction of non-native fish species. Recent newspaper articles/study reports including titles such as "Saving the last of the brook trout" state that Maine waters are indeed the "last true stronghold" for (native/wild) brook trout in the eastern U.S. Reportedly, Maine is the only state to have intact non-stocked populations of brook trout residing in lakes and ponds - primarily in the relatively undeveloped north-western areas of the State.



What needs to be recognized is that the viability of fishable brook trout populations in lakes and ponds in Maine is based on maintaining high water quality and shoreline habitat conditions which support a healthy ecological chain of native fishes, not just the fishable end of the ecological chain, but the species they in turn feed on such as coldwater minnow species which sustain existing trout fisheries and on down the food chain.

Maine DEP has concerns that large-scale residential development around previously undisturbed lakes in the north Maine woodlands may have negative impacts to aquatic life, similar to what has been historically experienced in the regulated areas of south-central Maine.

*(Continued on page 13)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

There, native brook trout and associated coldwater minnow species are sparse to non-existent. Maine DEP has recently been documenting existing baseline/reference conditions in Ecoreserve-situated waters and is currently scoping out plans to biomonitor aquatic life status/conditions in a sample of lakes in the Moosehead Lake region. Established six years ago, this system of public lands is intended to allow scientists to monitor long-term ecological, water quality, and landscape conditions. Techniques developed by DEP staff will allow comparison with developed lakes, especially lakeshore habitat values, to assess how humans and the development that goes with people is affecting the lakes we cherish through the State.

### 33 Years of Work Removes Cobosseecontee Lake from Impaired List

Like a year with no new invasive infestation, water quality restoration successes do come but not without long hard work. Next week, the DEP will formally recognize the Cobbossee Watershed District for its 33 years of excellent work to reduce the many watershed pollutants impacting Cobbosseecontee Lake.

This is the first large lake in Maine that has significantly improved in water quality and will be removed from the impaired lake list. But we must note, this improvement could be undone if we relax our efforts. Today, our lake protection efforts must continue with even more vigilance to address the significant pressures to develop, over-develop or suburbanize our watersheds. As I noted at the beginning of this talk, educating and supporting municipal officials, homeowners and developers to implement lake-friendly landscaping (LakeSmart), use of low impact design features and phosphorus free fertilizer is the front line in our battle to maintain and improve the health of our lakes, ponds and streams in the developed portions of the State. Together we are making a difference for clean water in Maine – we already have.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with all groups sponsoring the conference today. I am happy to answer any questions you have.

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## Upcoming Events

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November 9, 2006. Buffer Conference. Augusta Civic Center. Hosted by the NPSTC. This one-day event will include two plenary sessions and eight concurrent sessions. The program will discuss the many functions and values of vegetated buffers as well as regulatory requirements. Sessions on riparian buffers for wildlife and fisheries habitat protection, water quality protection and stormwater management will be featured. FMI contact Bill Laflamme at [william.n.laflamme@state.me.us](mailto:william.n.laflamme@state.me.us) or 287-7726.

November 15, 2006. MDEP's Annual Watershed Round Table. 9-3:30. Location yet to be determined. FMI contact Wendy Garland at [wendy.garland@maine.gov](mailto:wendy.garland@maine.gov) or 822-6320.

January 15-17, 2007. Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference. West Dover, Vermont. FMI [www.neapms.net](http://www.neapms.net)



**Clean water starts with you!**



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